AN ABSTRACT OF THE *Church Catechiſm*;

Briefly Containing

The SUBSTANCE of all that is Neceſſary to SALVATION.

Tit. iii. 8, 9.

This is a faithful ſaying, And theſe Things I will that thou affirm conſtantly, that they which have believed in God might be careful to maintain good Works: Theſe Things are good and profitable unto Men. But avoid fooliſh Queſtions.——

By the moſt Reverend Dr. EDWARD SYNGE, late Lord Archbiſhop of TUAM, in *Ireland.*

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THE PREFACE.

THE Neceſſary *Information of a Chriſtian in Matters of Religion, is all reducible to the following Heads.*

Firſt, *What he ought to believe?*

Secondly, *What Duties he is bound to perform?*

Thirdly, *After what Manner he ought to addreſs himſelf to God in Prayer?*

Fourthly, *By what Means and under what Conditions he is admitted into the Church of Chriſt?*

Fifthly, *How and by what Means he is to apply the Sufferings of Chriſt to himſelf, ſo as to partake of the Benefits of them?*

Whoſoever is well inſtructed in theſe Five Points, and lives conformably to ſuch Inſtruction, is undoubtedly in the direct and ſure Way to eternal Salvation.

It were much to be wiſhed that every Man, Woman and Child amongſt us could diſtinctly repeat the Words of our excellent Church Catechiſm: *But he who cannot do this, may yet* underſtand *them: And if he does that well and throughly, there is no part of the abovementioned Inſtruction, which will be wanting to him. For the Creed with the ſhort Explication in the* Catechiſm *ſubjoined to it will teach him what he is to* Believe. *The* Ten Commandments *with the like Explication will inſtruct him in all Parts of his* Duty: *From the Lords Prayer in like Manner explained he may learn how to* Pray: *And from the Doctrine there delivered, concerning* Baptiſm *and the* Lords-Supper, *he may be well informed of the* Terms upon which we come into Chriſt's Church; and in what Manner we become Partakers of the Benefits of that Sacrifice which he made of Himſelf upon the Croſs for our Redemtion. *All theſe Things, I ſay, may ſufficiently be known, in order to Salvation, by every one who well and throughly* underſtands the Church Catechiſm, *tho' poſſibly he may not be able to* repeat the Words of it. *I have by Experience found, that they who cannot read, and ſome of thoſe who can, are very hardly to be brought to get by heart, or even to underſtand ſome Parts of the* Catechiſm; *particularly*

particularly thoſe where a ſingle Anſwer is drawn out into ſome Length; as the ſecond and fourth Commandments, the Explication both of the Commandments and the Lords Prayer, and the Doctrine of the Sacraments.

For the Eaſe of their Memories, therefore, as well as improvement of their Underſtanding, I have in the following Abſtract *endeavour'd to repreſent the true Senſe of the* Catechiſm, *in the eaſieſt and plaineſt Words I could think of, and have made the Anſwers therein as few and ſhort alſo, as I could contrive them.*

And ſince Religious Inſtruction conſiſts not in the repeating a Form of Words, *but altogether in the* Knowledge of neceſſary Things; *I think I may truly ſay, That whoſoever well underſtands this* Abſtract, *is in a good Meaſure inſtructed in the* Church Catechiſm, *and in all Things that are neceſſary to Salvation. And whatever* Form of Words *is made uſe of in Catechiſing; it will always be neceſſary for the Catechiſt (when he inſtructs the Ignorant) a little to* explain *each* Queſtion *and* Anſwer, *as alſo to prove the Contents of every* Anſwer *from the Holy Scriptures. Part of which Explication and Proof it will be, ſometimes to recite the Words of each of the Ten* Commandments, *as he puts the Queſtion upon them; and to ſhew that the ſhort Explication here given of them is altoge-*

ther agreeable to their reſpective Deſign and Intention, *which always reaches farther than the Letter.*

The main Subſtance of the Chriſtian Religion is here contained in forty two ſhort Anſwers, none of them difficult to be underſtood (at leaſt with a little Explication) even by the meaneſt Capacity.

How eaſy then will it be for the moſt ignorant Man or even Child, who will but be attentive, by the Aſſiſtance of his Pariſh Miniſter, or any other prudent and well inſtructed Chriſtian, in a few Days to learn all that God requires from him in order to his everlaſting Happineſs? And when ſuch Perſons arrive at more Underſtanding, it will be their Duty as they become capable, not only to learn the Church Catechiſm, *but alſo to be well acquainted with the* Holy Scriptures, *and other Books of Piety and Religion.*

A N

AN

ABSTRACT, &c.

1. *HAT Benefit was it to you that you were baptized?*

Anſwer. Great Benefit: For, by God's Bleſſing on his own Ordinance of *Baptiſm*, I was thereby made a Member of the Church of Chriſt, a Child of God, and an Inheritor of the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. *What muſt you do that you may not be deprived of theſe great Benefits and Advantages?*

Anſ. I muſt renounce the Devil, and all Manner of Sin and Wickedneſs: I muſt believe all the Articles of the Chriſtian Faith: And I muſt give Obedience to all God's Commandments through the whole courſe of my Life.

3. *Re-*

3. *Rehearſe the Articles of the Chriſtian Faith?*

I *Believe in God the Father Almighty, Maker of Heaven and Earth: And in Jeſus Chriſt his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghoſt, born of the Virgin Mary, ſuffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried, he deſcended into Hell; the third Day he roſe again from the dead, he aſcended into Heaven, and ſitteth on the right Hand of God the Father Almighty; From thence he ſhall come to judge the Quick and the Dead. I believe in the Holy Ghoſt; The holy Catholick Church; The Communion of Saints; The Forgiveneſs of Sins; The Reſurrection of the Body, And the Life everlaſting.* Amen.

4. *What doſt thou hereby chiefly and principally learn to believe.*

Anſ. I learn to believe in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghoſt, in whoſe Name I was baptized.

5. *What do you believe of God the Father?*

Anſ. That by his Almighty Power he made me and all the World.

6. *What do you believe of God the Son?*

Anſ. That he took our Nature upon him, died for the Sins of all Mankind, roſe again, and aſcended into Glory.

7. *What*

7. *What do you believe of God the Holy Ghoſt?*

Anſ. That by his Grace and Aſſiſtance all faithful Members of Chriſt's Church are enabled to lead holy Lives.

8. *What do you believe of Chriſt's Church?*

Anſ. That it is an univerſal Church, and not confined to any one Nation or People. That every true Member of this Church is holy. That they all ought to maintain Communion and Fellowſhip together in Chriſt Jeſus. And that ſo doing they ſhall obtain Forgiveneſs of their Sins and everlaſting Happineſs in the Life to come.

9. *How many Commandments has God given us?*

Anſ. Chiefly Ten: Being the ſame which God himſelf ſpake unto the *Children of Iſrael.*

10. *What does the* Firſt Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould love, fear and honour God above all things; and give religious Worſhip to none but himſelf.

11. *What does the* Second Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould make no Picture or Image of God; nor worſhip or bow down to any Picture or Image whatſoever.

12. *What*

12. *What does the* Third Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould honour and reverence the Name of God; and never profane it, either by fooliſh Talking, vain or falſe Swearing, or Curſing.

13. *What does the* Fourth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould worſhip God, not only privately, but publickly alſo: And that one Day in Seven ſhould more eſpecially be ſet apart for his Worſhip and Service, which amongſt us Chriſtians, is the *Lord's Day.*

14. *What does the* Fifth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould love, honour, and obey our Parents, and all our Superiours in Church and State.

15. *What does the* Sixth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould abſtain from Murder, Hatred, Malice and Revenge, and be kindly affectioned one towards another.

16. *What does the* Seventh Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould abſtain from Adultery, Whoredom, and all manner of Lewdneſs in Thought, Word, and Deed: And that we ſhould carefully keep our Bodies in Temperance, Sobriety and Chaſtity.

17. *What*

17. *What does the* Eighth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould neither ſteal, cheat, nor defraud; but honeſtly give to every Man whatever is due to him.

18. *What does the* Ninth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould bear falſe Witneſs againſt no Man, but abſtain from Evil Speaking, Lying and Slandring; and be true and ſincere in all that we ſay.

19. *What doth the* Tenth Commandment *require from us?*

Anſ. That we ſhould be content with that which is our own, and not covet what belongs to any other Man.

20. *Give me the main Subſtance of all God's Commandments, in ſhort?*

Anſ. To love God with all our Heart and Soul; and to love our Neighbour as we do our ſelves.

21. *Are you able of yourſelf to keep theſe Commandments?*

Anſw. Not without God's Grace and Aſſiſtance, which I muſt continually pray for.

22. *Say the Lords Prayer.*

OUR Father which art in Heaven; Hallowed be thy Name. Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done in Earth, as it is in

in Heaven. Give us this Day our daily Bread. And forgive us our Treſpaſſes, as we forgive them, that Treſpaſs againſt us. And lead us not into Temptation, But deliver us from Evil. For thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever. Amen.

23. *Do you pray for your ſelf alone?*

Anſ. I pray for all Mankind together with my ſelf.

24. *What mean you when you ſay,* Our Father which art in Heaven?

Anſ. I give Glory to God, as being our Lord and Heavenly Father.

25. *What mean you when you ſay,* Hallowed be thy Name?

Anſ. I pray that God's Holy Name may be ſanctified and reverenced through the World.

26. *What mean you when you ſay,* Thy Kingdom come?

Anſ. I pray that all Men may become obedient unto God, as their eternal King; and that we all may be partakers of his Heavenly Kingdom.

27. *What mean you when you ſay,* Thy Will be done in Earth as it is in Heaven?

Anſ. I pray that we may all be obedient to God's Will here on Earth, as the holy Angels and bleſſed Spirits are in Heaven.

22. *What*

27. *What mean you when you ſay* Give us this Day our daily Bread.

Anſ. I pray that God would give us the Neceſſaries of Life, of which *Bread* is reckoned to be the chief.

29. *What mean you when you ſay* Forgive us our Treſpaſſes as we forgive them that treſpaſs againſt us?

Anſ. I pray that as we forgive all other Men who have wronged us, ſo God would forgive us our Sins, whereby we have offended him.

30. *What mean you when you ſay* Lead us not into Temptation?

Anſ. I pray that God would preſerve us from every Thing that may tempt or draw us into Sin.

31. *What mean you when you ſay* Deliver us from Evil?

Anſ. I pray that God would deliver us from all Calamities and Afflictions of this World: But above all, from the Evil of Sin, and the conſequent Evil of eternal Damnation.

32. *What mean you when you ſay* Thine is the Kingdom, the Power, and the Glory, for ever and ever?

Anſ. I give Praiſe and Glory to God for the Greatneſs of his Power and Majeſty.

33. *Why do you ſay* Amen at the End both of the Creed and the Lord's Prayer?

Anſ. Amen ſignifies as much as *verily*, *truly*, or *ſo be it:* And I pronounce it at the End both of my *Creed* and my *Prayers*, to ſhew that my Heart agrees with my Mouth.

34. *How many divine Ordinances are there, which are commonly called by the Name of* Sacraments?

Anſ. Two only, as generally neceſſary to Salvation; that is to ſay, *Baptiſm* and *The Supper of the Lord.*

35. *What is the outward and viſible Part of* Baptiſm?

Anſ. Water, wherein Chriſt has commanded every Man to be baptized, in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghoſt.

36. *What is the inward and inviſible part of it?*

Anſ. God's Grace and Bleſſing attending his own Ordinance; whereby we are cleanſed from the Pollution of Sin; admitted into the Favour of God, as his Children, and enabled to live in Obedience to him.

37. *What is required from Perſons to be baptized?*

Anſ. Faith and Repentance.

38. *Why*

38. *Why then are Infants baptized, who are uncapable both of believing and repenting?*

Anſ. They are bound to believe and repent as ſoon as they become capable: Of which their Parents and Sureties, who bring them to Baptiſm are obliged to take all due care.

39. *Why was the Sacrament of the* Lord's Supper *ordained?*

Anſ. It was ordained for the continual Remembrance of the Sacrifice of the Death of Chriſt, and of the Benefits which we receive thereby.

40. *What is the outward and viſible Part of the* Lord's Supper?

Anſ. Bread and Wine; both which Chriſt has commanded to be received.

41. *What is the inward and inviſible Part of it?*

Anſ. The Communion or Participation of the Body and Blood of Chriſt; which through Faith we ſpiritually receive in the *Lord's Supper*, and thereby are made partakers of the Benefits of his Death and Paſſion.

42. *What Preparation is required of thoſe who come to* The Lord's Supper?

Anſ. True Repentance for all paſt Sins, with a ſtedfaſt Purpoſe of leading an Holy Life, for the Time to come: Faith in *Jeſus Chriſt*, with a thankful Remembrance of his Death, and Charity towards all Mankind.

THE

Ten COMMANDMENTS.

I.

THOU ſhalt have none other Gods but me.

II.

Thou ſhalt not make to thy ſelf any graven Image, nor the Likeneſs of any Thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth beneath, or in the Water under the Earth. Thou ſhalt not bow down to them, nor worſhip them: For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, and viſit the Sins of the Fathers upon the Children, unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me, and ſhew Mercy unto Thouſands, of them that love me, and keep my Commandments.

III.

III.

Thou ſhalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain: For the Lord will not hold him guiltleſs, that taketh his Name in vain.

IV.

Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day. Six Days ſhalt thou labour, and do all that thou haſt to do; but the ſeventh Day is the Sabbath of the Lord thy God. In it thou ſhalt do no Manner of Work, thou, and thy Son, and, thy Daughter, thy Man-ſervant, and thy Maid-ſervant, thy Cattle and the Stranger, that is within thy Gates. For in ſix Days the Lord made Heaven and Earth, the Sea, and all that in them is, and reſted the ſeventh Day; Wherefore the Lord bleſſed the ſeventh Day and hallowed it.

V.

Honour thy Father and thy Mother, that thy Days may be long, in the Land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.

VI.

Thou ſhalt do no Murder.

VII.

VII.

Thou ſhalt not commit Adultery.

VIII.

Thou ſhalt not ſteal.

IX.

Thou ſhalt not bear falſe Witneſs againſt thy Neighbour.

X.

Thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbour's Houſe, thou ſhalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife, nor his Servant, nor his Maid, nor his Ox, nor his Aſs, nor any Thing that is his.

F I N I S.

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